High production cost of Rifampicin

@3296. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 156 given in the Rajya Sabha on 27th July, 1988 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that production of Rifampicin involves an additional outgo of foreign exchange to the extent of dollar 59/kg;

(b) whether it is also a fact that import price of Rifampicin is Rs. 150 per kg. and for producing 1 kg. of drug from intermediates $ 209 are being spent;

(c) whether the Phenomenon of over-invoicing and overcharging of price, to the detriment of the T.B. patients, had been going on for the last two years;

(d) what are the approved prices of Rifampicin plus INH capsules and Rifampicin 600 mg. per capsule and what prices are being charged by the companies; and

(e) what steps have been taken to fix the responsibility in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) to (c) The price of Rifampicin bulk drug was fixed at Rs. 3098 per kg in October 1986 based on the recommendations of BICP and was subsequently reduced to Rs. 3000 per kg in January, 1987 due to fall in prices of intermediates. International prices of bulk drugs and intermediates fluctuate widely from time to time. No specific instance of over invoicing has come to the notice of the Government.

(d) The price fixed under DPCO 1987 for 4 capsules of Rifampicin plus INA (450 mg plus 300 mg) in one case is Rs. 12.01.

(e) In view of the reply given above does not arise.

@Previously Unstarred Question-2726, transferred from the 17th August, 1988.

Examination of representations from Small drugs manufacturing units

3297. SHRI DHARANIDHAR BASUMATARI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) when the examination of the requests of small scale units for exemption under DPCO, 1987 would start and how long it would take to accede to their requests;

(b) what are the current prices of Durabolin, Decadurabolin, Gestanin, Orabolne, Unionzyme tablets and Trienergic, Styptovit Injections;

(c) whether prices of these products are exorbitant and if so what are the reasons for which his Ministry has not so far intervened; and

(d) when the list of drugs under price control would be normally reviewed and whether any institutional arrangements been made for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) Examination of requests of small scale units for exemption from price control DPCO, 1987, has already been started and this is a continuous process.

(b) and (c) As per the provisions of DPCO 1987, the manufacturers of non-scheduled medicines are free to revise the prices. However, Govt. is keeping a watch and has intervened wherever found necessary.

(d) Various representations received in this regard have been forwarded to Kelkar Committee for necessary action.

Production and sale of Benzathine Penicillin

3298. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1416 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 9th May, 1988 and state:

(a) whether his Ministry is monitoring the production of Benzathine Penicillin;